

Serial No. **10/036,377**

Docket No. **P-0282**

Amdt. dated June 20, 2007

Reply to Office Action of April 2, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-40 are pending.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 10-22, 25-28, and 31-34 are allowed. The Examiner is further thanked for the indication that claims 5, 7-9, 24, 30, 36, 38 and 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, for the reasons set forth below, these claims have not been rewritten in independent form at this time.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6, 23, 29, 35, 37, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the “Background of the Related Art” section of the present application. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a method of selecting special characters in a hand-held mobile communication terminal comprising, *inter alia*, in addition to inputting an alphabet letter in an editing mode via a keypad, displaying a plurality of European alphabet letters, including special characters not used in the English alphabet, corresponding to the input alphabet letters, wherein a series of numbers are associated respectively with each of the European alphabet letters. Apparatus claims 23, 29, 35, 37, and 39 recite similar features. Independent claims 35, 37, and 39 further recite a user may select a desired European alphabet letter by pressing a key on the input unit designating the number respectively associated with the desired European alphabet letter. The “Background of the Related Art” section of the present application does

not disclose or suggest such features or the respective claimed combinations of independent claims 1, 23, 29, 35, 37, and 39.

Rather, the “Background of the Related Art” section of the present application teaches inputting an alphabet letter by pushing a number/letter key on a keypad, then pushing a predetermined key to enter a special character input mode. Once the user selects the special character input mode, a plurality of European alphabet letters, which are stored as related to or associated with the alphabet letter are displayed on a screen. The user then uses a toggle key to search the displayed European alphabet letters. Thus, the “Background of the Related Art” section of the present application at least does not disclose or suggest the features of wherein a series of numbers are associated respectively with each of the European alphabet letters. Further, with respect to independent claims 35, 37, and 39, the “Background of the Related Art” section of the present application does not disclose or suggest wherein a user may select a desired European alphabet letter by pressing a key input unit designating the number respectively associated with the desired European letter alphabet.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1, 23, 29, 35, 37, and 39 over the “Background of the Related Art” section of the present application should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-4 and 6 are allowable over the “Background of the Related Art” section of the present application at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 6, 23, 29, 35, 37, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ichikawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,870,528, in view of Watanabe, U.S. Patent No. 6,963,332. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set for the above, independent claim 1 recites a method of selecting special characters in a hand-held mobile communication terminal comprising, *inter alia*, in addition to inputting and alphabet letter in an editing mode via a keypad, displaying a plurality of European alphabet letters, including special characters not used in the English alphabet, corresponding to the input alphabet letters, wherein a series of numbers are associated respectively with each of the European alphabet letters. Apparatus claims 23, 29, 35, 37, and 39 recited similar features. Independent claims 35, 37, and 39 further recite a user may select a desired European alphabet letter by pressing a key on the input unit designating the number respectively associated with the desired European alphabet letter. Ichikawa and Watanabe, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest such features, or the respective claimed combinations of independent claims 1, 23, 29, 35, 37, and 39.

The Examiner refers to col. 6, line 34 to col. 7, line 36 of Ichikawa as disclosing the claimed features. However, Ichikawa merely discloses in these passages selection between a plurality of modes: a quasi-Roman letter input mode, a dial key input mode (sounds are assigned to each to dial key), and a letter code (codes are assigned to each Japanese alphabet letter) input mode. These passages then detail the quasi-Roman letter input mode. However, Ichikawa

merely discloses inputting letters via a numerical keypad. Ichikawa does not disclose or suggest the features of wherein a series of numbers are associated respectively with each of the European alphabet letters. Further, Ichikawa does not disclose or suggest the features of wherein a user may select a desired European alphabet letter by pressing a key on the input unit designating the number respectively associated with the desired European alphabet letter.

Accordingly, Ichikawa fails to disclose or suggest all of the features or the respective claimed combinations of independent claims 1, 23, 25, 37, and 39. Watanabe fails to overcome the deficiencies of Ichikawa, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching display of European alphabet letters based on an input alphabet letter.

Thus, the rejection of independent claims 1, 23, 29, 35, 37, and 39 over Ichikawa and Watanabe should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-3 and 6 are allowable over Ichikawa and Watanabe at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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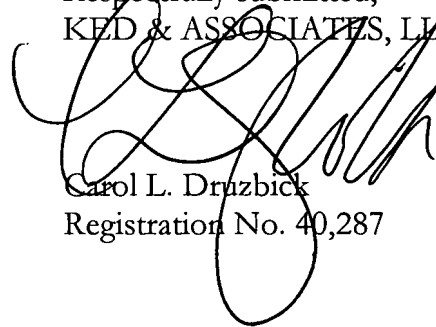
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If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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